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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/911,996	07/24/2001	Markus Cech	19361-495600	5238

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PIERCE ATWOOD
One Monument Square
Portland, ME 04101

EXAMINER

HARVEY, JAMES R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 05/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/911,996

Applicant(s)

CECH ET AL.

Examiner

James R. Harvey

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed 3-10-03.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Cancellations

- The cancellation of claims 10-18 has been made of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-9 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Endo et al. (5,100,345).

-- In reference to claim 1, Endo shows (cover sheet)

a base body (A) in which at

least one plug contact is arranged, the at least one plug contact (C) permitting an

insertion of an electric feed line in an axial direction from a rear end of the

at least one plug contact, and

a fitting part (B) which is movable with respect to

the base body from a first latching position to a second latching position and which permits a

lateral visual access (column 3, lines 38-40, and (column 4, line 39)), at the rear end of the at

least one plug contact to the at least

one plug contact in the first latching position and, in the second latching position, laterally

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covers the at least one plug contact (figure 3c).

-- In reference to claim 2, Endo shows (cover sheet) the fitting part is axially movable with respect to the base body.

-- In reference to claim 3, Endo shows the fitting part comprises at least one extension [11 (column 3, lines 32-38), and 15 (column 3, line 60)], which extends in an axial direction (figure 4a), the extension cooperating with the at least one plug contact in such a manner that the extension in the first latching position locks the plug contact against falling out (column 3, lines 55-63) and, in the second latching position, rigidly holds the plug contact in the base body (column 3, lines 40-50).

-- In reference to claim 4, Endo shows the fitting part is captively connected with the base body (column 3, lines 20-25).

-- In reference to claim 5, Endo shows the fitting part or the base body is provided with a guide groove 6, and the base body or the fitting part has a projection 13 which is guided in the guide groove (column 3, lines 25-30).

-- In reference to claim 7, Endo shows the fitting part can be reversibly reciprocated between the first latching and the second latching position (column 4, lines 25-50).

-- In reference to claim 8, Endo shows
a base body supporting one
or more plug contacts, and allowing feeding of an electric feed line in an
axial direction towards the plug contact; and

a fitting part movable with

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respect to the base body in a reversible manner from a first latching position to a second latching position, wherein, in the first latching position, the fitting part permits a lateral access to each plug contact for electrically connecting the electric feed line to the respective plug contact and, in the second latching position, the fitting part covers the at least one plug contact at least laterally (cover sheet) 4, lines 20-50).

-- In reference to claim 9, Endo shows

a base body in which at least one plug contact is arranged, the at least one plug contact permitting an insertion of an electric feed line into the plug contact in an axial direction from a rear end of the at least one plug contact, and

a fitting part comprising a side wall, the side wall 10 having at least one expandable area (near 13) to which a latch element is connected 13, wherein the fitting part is coupled to the base body by means of the latch element (column 3 , lines 25-30).

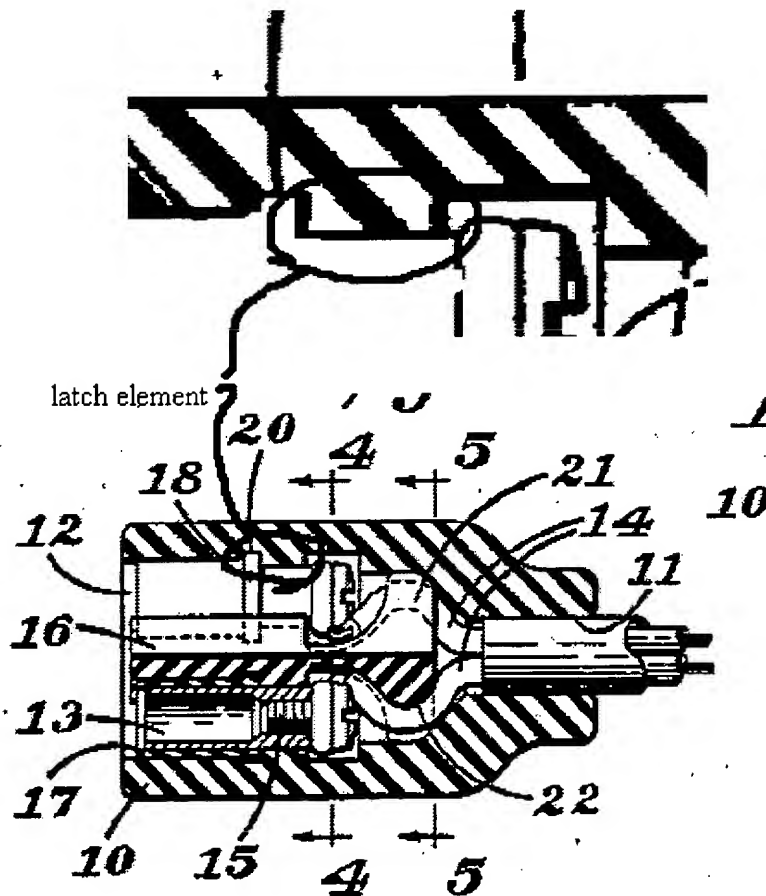
** Claim(s) 9 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Doughman (255763).

-- In reference to claim 9, Doughman shows (see examiner's figure)

a base body 16 in which at least one plug contact 17 is arranged, the at least one plug contact permitting an insertion of an electric feed line 14 into the plug contact in an axial direction from a rear end of the at least one plug contact, and

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a fitting part comprising a side wall, the side wall having at least one expandable area to which a latch element (see examiner's figure) is connected, wherein the fitting part is coupled to the base body by means of the latch element.



Response to Arguments

-- Applicant's arguments filed in response to the previous office action have been considered, but they are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

- Claim(s) 6 has(have) allowable subject matter.
- Claim(s) 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
- The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: While clamping screw contacts are well known in the art and Francisco (US 5,306,157) teaches (abstract) that clamping screws allow one to change the wiring of a housing so that one of its outlets is converted from direct contact with a constantly hot, positive line to electrical contact with either an external switch or a secondary source of power the examiner knows of no permissible motivation to combine the inventions of Endo and Francisco. The claim as a whole including the limitation of a plug contact that is a clamping screw is not taught in the prior art nor is it obvious to combine with the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

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- The prior art listed on PTO form 892 that is made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it shows the state of the art with respect to applicant's claimed invention.

- Effective May 1, 2003, the United States Patent and Trademark Office has a new Commissioner for Patents address. Correspondence in patent related matters must now be addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

For additional information regarding the new address, see Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

- Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 703-305-0958. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 703-308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 (OFFICAL/BEFORE FINAL) and 703-872-9319 (OFFICAL/AFTER FINAL).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

James R. Harvey, Examiner

jrh
May 13, 2003



**THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER**